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3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6085

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4518

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SHUM, AR, US
SUBJECT: ALLEGED VIDELA LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER

1. ACCORDING TO SOURCES IN THE POPULAR CONSERVATIVE PARTY, PARTY MEMBER JUAN ESPIL, WHO IS A NEPHEW OF ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO US AJA ESPIL AND ALSO A CONFIDANT OF PRESIDENT VIDELA, VIDELA IS UPSET OVER AJA ESPIL'S RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN THE US BLAMING CERTAIN UNIDENTIFIED SECTORS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT FOR US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES VIS-A-VIS ARGENTINA. ACCORDING TO THESE POLITICAL SOURCES, VIDELA DID NOT AUTHORIZE AJA ESPIL TO TAKE THIS INITIATIVE AND FOREIGN MINISTER MONTES HAS ANSWERED A PRESIDENTIAL INQUIRY STATING THAT THE AMBASSADOR'S ACTION WAS NOT THE RESULT OF ANY INSTRUCTION FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY EITHER.

[redacted] 3.3(b)(1)

2. OUR POLITICAL SOURCES ASSERT FURTHER THAT PRESIDENT VIDELA, UPON LEARNING THAT AMBASSADOR AJA ESPIL HAD ALLEGEDLY ACTED ON HIS OWN, DESPATCHED A LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER IN EFFECT DEAUTHORIZING AJA ESPIL'S INITIATIVE AND PERHAPS EVEN PLACING IN JEOPARDY HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTINUING AS AMBASSADOR TO THE US.

3. THE ASSERTION CONCERNING A PRESIDENTIAL LETTER

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MAY BE A GARBLE ON THE PART OF THE POLITICIANS HERE. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE.
CASTRO

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